

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1 1. (Currently Amended) A certification authority for generating certificates in response to  
2 respective certification requests, the certification authority comprising:

3 A. a computer that is bootable from a removable medium; and

4 B. a removable medium comprising a machine readable medium having  
5 encoded thereon:

6 i. an operating system module configured to enable the computer to  
7 boot from the removable medium; and

8 ii. a certificate generation module configured to, after the computer has  
9 been booted, control the computer to facilitate the generation of at least one  
10 certificate in response to an associated certification ~~certificate~~ request, ~~the~~  
11 ~~certification authority module being configured to provide that the computer~~  
12 ~~not be remotely controlled during a certificate generation session.~~

1 2. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 1 in which said  
2 certification authority operates under control of an operator, the certificate generation  
3 module enabling the computer to display certification ~~certificate~~ request information  
4 associated with the certification ~~certificate~~ request to the operator and receive operator input  
5 information from an operator, the certificate generation module enabling the computer to  
6 use the input information from the operator in generating the at least one certificate.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 2 in which the operator  
2 input information includes operator authentication information, the certificate ~~certification~~

3 generation module including an authentication module configured to enable the computer to  
4 receive the operator authentication information and verify that the operator is authorized to  
5 control the certification authority.

1 4. (Original) A certification authority as defined in claim 3 in which the certificate includes  
2 an digital signature comprising a signature that is generated using private encryption key,  
3 the certificate generation module including

4 A. an encrypted private key;

5 B. a decryption module configured to enable the computer to use the operator  
6 authentication information to decrypt the encrypted private key thereby to obtain a  
7 private key; and

8 C. a digital signature module configured to enable the computer to generate a  
9 digital signature from information in the at least one certificate using the private key.

1 5. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 2 in which ~~the~~  
2 ~~certificate generation module further enables the operator to receive operator input~~  
3 ~~information relating to information in the certificate request~~, the certificate generation  
4 module further includes ~~including~~:

5 A. a certification request information display module configured to enable the  
6 computer to display certification request information to the operator; and

7           B.       a certification request edit module configured to enable the computer to  
8           receive ~~cert~~ certification request modification information from the operator and  
9           update information in the certification ~~certificate~~ request in response thereto.

1       6. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 2 in which the  
2       certificate generation module further includes a certification request approval module  
3       configured to enable the computer to receive operator input information comprising a  
4       certification ~~certificate~~ request approval and generate the certificate ~~request~~ in response  
5       thereto.

1       7. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 1 in which ~~information~~  
2       ~~in a certification request is in a predetermined format~~, the certificate generation module  
3       further includes ~~including~~ a certification request verification module configured to enable  
4       said computer to determine whether the information in the at least one certification request  
5       is in ~~the~~ a predetermined format.

1       8. (Original) A certification authority as defined in claim 1 in which the computer is  
2       connected to retrieve certification requests from a remote storage location, the certificate  
3       generation module further including a communication control module configured to enable  
4       the computer to retrieve certification requests from the remote storage location.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in connection with a computer  
2 to form a certification authority for generating certificates in response to respective  
3 certification requests, the computer being bootable from a removable medium, the computer  
4 program product comprising a removable medium in the form of a machine readable  
5 medium having encoded thereon:

6 A. an operating system module configured to enable the computer to boot from  
7 the removable medium; and

8 B. a certificate generation module configured to, after the computer has been  
9 booted, control the computer to facilitate the generation of at least one certificate in  
10 response to an associated certification ~~certificate~~ request, ~~the certification authority~~  
11 ~~module being configured to provide that the computer not be remotely controlled~~  
12 ~~during a certificate generation session.~~

1 10. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 9 in which said certification  
2 authority operates under control of an operator, the certificate generation module enabling  
3 the computer to display certification request information associated with the certification  
4 request to the operator and receive operator input information from an operator, the  
5 certificate generation module enabling the computer to use the input information from the  
6 operator in generating the at least one certificate.

1 11. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 10 in which the operator  
2 input information includes operator authentication information, the certificate generation

3 module including an authentication module configured to enable the computer to receive the  
4 operator authentication information and verify that the operator is authorized to control the  
5 certification authority.

1 12. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 in which the certificate  
2 includes a signature comprising a signature that is encrypted using a private encryption key,  
3 the certificate generation module including  
4 A. an encrypted private key;  
5 B. a decryption module configured to enable the computer to use the operator  
6 authentication information to decrypt the encrypted private key thereby to obtain a  
7 private key; and  
8 C. a digital signature module configured to enable the computer to generate a  
9 digital signature from information in the at least one certificate and encrypt the  
10 digital signature using the private key.

1 13. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 10 in which the certificate  
2 generation module further enables the operator to receive operator input information  
3 relating to information in the certification request, the certificate generation module further  
4 including:  
5 A. a certification request information display module configured to enable the  
6 computer to display certification information to the operator; and

7           B.       a certification request edit module configured to enable the computer to  
8           receive certification request modification information from the operator and update  
9           information in the certification request in response thereto.

1    14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 10 in which the  
2    certificate generation module further includes a certification request approval module  
3    configured to enable the computer to receive operator input information comprising a  
4    certification request approval and generate the certificate in response thereto.

1    15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 9 in which  
2    ~~information in a certification request is in a predetermined format,~~ the certificate generation  
3    module further includes ~~including~~ a certification request verification module configured to  
4    enable said computer to determine whether the information in the at least one certification  
5    request is in ~~the~~ a predetermined format.

1    16. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 9 in which the computer is  
2    connected to retrieve certification requests from a remote storage location, the certificate  
3    generation module further including a communication control module configured to enable  
4    the computer to retrieve certification requests from the remote storage location.